

2. Huirong, Zhao. Ten Years of the “the Belt and Road” Initiative in Belarus: Progress and Prospects / Zhao Huirong // *Siberian Studies*. – 2024. – Vol. 51, № 02. – P. 5–19.

3. Analysis of Belarusian domestic and foreign policies and research on China Belarus relations in the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict : A summary of the views of the seminar on “Belarusian domestic situation and foreign policy in 2022 and relations between Belarus and China” / Hu Zheng, Zhao Huirong, Pan Dawei [et al.] // *Journal of Zhejiang Shuren University*. – 2023. – Vol. 23, № 01. – P. 28–41.

Danxuan Li, Wang Yuan,

*International Business School of Economics and Management,
Shanghai University of Political Science and Law
(People's Republic of China)
1604524308@qq.com*

THE INTERNATIONALIZATION PATH OF BELARUS'S ECONOMY: AN ANALYSIS BASED ON THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THE “BELT AND ROAD” INITIATIVE AND THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

Abstract. *The internationalization process of Belarus's economy is a multi-dimensional and multi-level strategic layout aimed at comprehensively enhancing its position in the global economy through promoting foreign trade, attracting foreign direct investment, and deepening regional cooperation. As an important participant in the “Belt and Road” initiative, Belarus has actively integrated into the global economic system by reducing tariffs, simplifying trade procedures, and establishing free economic zones, not only expanding interactions with major trading partners but also attracting substantial foreign capital and technology. Furthermore, in July 2024, Belarus officially became the tenth member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), further boosting its international engagement and market potential. These measures have not only promoted diversification of Belarus's economy and expansion of foreign trade but also created more possibilities for mutually beneficial cooperation among SCO member states. By continuously optimizing policies and improving the business environment, Belarus is gradually achieving sustainable economic growth and occupying a more significant position in the global value chain.*

Keywords: *economic internationalization path, Belt and Road, SCO, trade and economic cooperation, industrial upgrading.*

Даньсюань Ли, Ван Юань,
Международная бизнес-школа экономики и менеджмента,
Шанхайский университет политических наук и права
(Китайская Народная Республика)
1604524308@qq.com

ПУТЬ ИНТЕРНАЦИОНАЛИЗАЦИИ ЭКОНОМИКИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ: АНАЛИЗ НА ОСНОВЕ СИНЕРГИИ МЕЖДУ ИНИЦИАТИВОЙ «ОДИН ПОЯС, ОДИН ПУТЬ» И ШАНХАЙСКОЙ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЕЙ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА (ШОС)

Аннотация. Процесс интернационализации экономики Республики Беларусь представляет собой многомерную и многоуровневую стратегическую модель, направленную на всестороннее укрепление ее позиций в мировой экономике за счет содействия внешней торговле, привлечения прямых иностранных инвестиций и углубления регионального сотрудничества. Будучи важным участником инициативы «Один пояс, один путь», Беларусь активно интегрируется в глобальную экономическую систему, снижая тарифы, упрощая торговые процедуры и создавая свободные экономические зоны, что не только расширяет взаимодействие с основными торговыми партнерами, но и привлекает значительные иностранные капиталы и технологии. Кроме того, в июле 2024 г. Беларусь официально стала десятым государством – членом Шанхайской организации сотрудничества (ШОС), что еще больше усилило ее международную вовлеченность и рыночный потенциал. Эти меры не только способствуют диверсификации экономики Беларуси и расширению внешней торговли, но и создают больше возможностей для взаимовыгодного сотрудничества между странами – членами ШОС. Постоянно оптимизируя политику и улучшая деловой климат, Беларусь постепенно достигает устойчивого экономического роста и занимает более значимое место в глобальной цепочке создания стоимости.

Ключевые слова: интернационализация экономики, ШОС, торгово-экономическое сотрудничество, промышленная модернизация.

Regarding the internationalization path of Belarus's economy, it can be analyzed from three key areas: promoting foreign trade, attracting foreign direct investment by optimizing the domestic business environment, and deepening regional cooperation. These three paths have effectively promoted the internationalization of Belarus's economy.

Firstly, Belarus actively integrates into the global economic system, participating in various global trade organizations and regional economic cooperation mechanisms to enhance economic exchanges with major trading partners. For example, Belarus proactively reduces tariffs and simplifies trade procedures to eliminate trade barriers, facilitating smoother entry of export goods into the international market. Additionally, Belarus expands its international influence by signing free trade agreements with the Eurasian Union, China, and other countries. This policy flexibility not only promotes the rational utilization of production capacity but also opens up new development opportunities for domestic enterprises, helping to deepen economic ties with other countries. Secondly, to attract foreign investment, Belarus has adopted a series of incentive measures, creating an attractive investment environment. By setting up free economic zones such as Brest and offering generous tax reductions and financial subsidies, Belarus constantly optimizes the domestic business and investment environment, achieving national treatment for foreign investments. These preferential policies are particularly targeted at high-tech industries and services, aiming to attract advanced technologies and management experiences, thereby driving innovation and upgrading in related domestic sectors. Moreover, Belarus has implemented measures to strengthen intellectual property protection, enhancing the confidence of foreign investors. This multifaceted strategy not only improves the quality of investment but also stimulates the domestic economy, positively promoting technological progress and industrial structure transformation. Finally, Belarus focuses on strengthening economic partnerships with neighboring countries, especially with key economies like China, the European Union, and Russia. Through participation in multiple cooperation mechanisms and the advancement of joint projects, Belarus enhances its influence in the regional economy. Such cooperation extends beyond the exchange of goods and services to broader areas including infrastructure development, scientific and technological innovation, and cultural exchanges. Through these collaborations, Belarus effectively elevates its standing in the global economy while accumulating human and technological resources [1, p. 23].

By actively participating in the economic and trade exchanges and project collaborations under the “Belt and Road” initiative, Belarus further promotes higher-quality economic globalization, enhancing its position in the global value chain, and significantly contributing to the development of the “Belt and Road” initiative. As one of the earliest supporters and participants in the “Belt and Road” initiative, Belarus, through aligning with this initiative, enacted a new Investment Law to promote modernization of transportation, logistics, communication, and customs infrastructure,

as well as to continuously optimize the investment environment to attract foreign capital. Recognizing its crucial role as a “transportation hub” on the Eurasian continent, Belarus has upgraded and modernized its railway intermodal stations; it is committed to building multimodal logistics hubs nationwide, aiming to attract Chinese investment and work together with China to advance modern and information-communication infrastructure construction projects, deeply integrating into the “Belt and Road” initiative. In the active participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative, Belarus has vigorously promoted a series of infrastructure and industrial projects, which aim to promote regional economic development and strengthen economic cooperation and exchanges. The most notable among them is the construction of the China-Belarus Industrial Park (Great Stone). The Park, known as the “pearl” along the “Belt and Road”, has attracted 113 companies from 16 countries and regions, with intended investments exceeding 1.35 billion USD. The wide-ranging business activities include mechanical manufacturing, e-commerce, new materials, artificial intelligence, and biomedicine, providing numerous job opportunities for local residents and directly improving their living standards and economic welfare. Belarus’s active involvement in the “Belt and Road” initiative brings a series of positive impacts and significant benefits to its economic internationalization. Firstly, it opens a new window for attracting international capital and promoting economic growth. Through economic interactions with China and other participating countries, Belarus can expand its international trade, increase exports, and thus enhance its participation in the global economic system. Secondly, participating in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” helps accelerate the renewal and upgrading of its infrastructure, improving the efficiency of railway and logistics networks, which is crucial for optimizing the business environment and attracting more international investment. At the same time, more investment projects bring technology spillovers and positive externalities to Belarus, which can both drive the upgrading of upstream and downstream supporting industries and stimulate innovation and upgrading of local enterprises through increased market competition. Additionally, the development of the China-Belarus Industrial Park plays a significant role in serving high-quality co-construction of the “Belt and Road”, promoting smooth trade in the Eurasian region, facilitating the linkage and integration of the Chinese and world economies, and accelerating the formation of a new development pattern characterized by mutual promotion of dual circulation.

On July 4, 2024, after years of progress toward joining the “SCO family”, Belarus officially became the tenth member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Belarus’s accession not only broadens its

global economic participation, bringing more development opportunities and market potential, but also promotes regional economic integration, creating more possibilities for mutually beneficial cooperation among SCO member states. In terms of trade volume, over 70 % of Belarus's total foreign trade is with SCO member states, and this figure continues to grow, highlighting the close and extensive nature of bilateral economic cooperation. The prospects for economic cooperation within the SCO are vast, covering areas such as industry and technology, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, green economy and climate adaptation, civilian nuclear energy, and environmental technologies. By strengthening economic ties with SCO member states, Belarus can not only promote the diversification of its economy and the expansion of foreign trade but also enhance the competitiveness of its products in the international market, thereby improving its position in the global industrial chain. It also opens the door for other SCO member states to enter the Belarusian market, expanding the overall market space and better realizing division of labor, trade, and economies of scale, thus increasing production efficiency. Looking ahead, joining the SCO will help optimize the economic structure, enabling Belarus to gain more economic benefits from promoting digital transformation, especially with support from China. Meanwhile, cross-border e-commerce has become an important area of modern trade, and Belarus can sell goods to other SCO member states through its own universal commodity exchange, promoting cross-border digital trade and the digital transformation of transportation networks and customs services. In summary, by strengthening economic cooperation with the SCO, Belarus not only promotes its own economic development but also contributes to the stability and prosperity of the Eurasian region, achieving common development and regional economic integration goals.

In conclusion, Against the backdrop of deepening globalization, Belarus can only firmly establish itself in the future tide of the world economy, expand its development potential, and achieve sustained economic prosperity by continuously deepening its participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative and the SCO.

Reference

1. Ivanov, A. The path to economic internationalization of Belarus: strategies and outcomes / A. Ivanov // Journal of Belarusian Studies. – 2024. – Vol. 36, № 2. – P. 45–60.